



Department of Justice  
Canada

Ministère de la Justice  
Canada

FOR APPROVAL  
NUMERO DU DOSSIER/FILE #: 2017-003442  
COTE DE SÉCURITÉ/SECURITY CLASSIFICATION: Protected "B"

TITRE/TITLE: Funding to Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre Ltd.

SOMMAIRE EXÉCUTIF/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Your approval is sought to provide funding to Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre Ltd. for "*Forensic Interviewer*," a discretionary project that meets the criteria under the Victims Fund.
- Should you approve, your signature is required on the Grants and Contributions Approval Document (Annex 1) to commit the funds in accordance with section 32 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Attached at Annex 2 is a copy of the funding application for your ease of reference.
- The proposed project responds to the Call for Proposals launched on February 27, 2017, under the Victims Fund to continue to support child advocacy centres across the country. Eligible applicants included non-governmental organizations currently receiving funding under the Child Advocacy Centre Initiative of the Victims Fund.
- The project aims to increase capacity of the organization to provide a coordinated approach to addressing the needs of child and youth victims and/or witnesses in the criminal justice system, thereby minimizing system-induced trauma by providing a single, child-friendly setting for young victims or witnesses and their families seeking services.
- Recommended funding in fiscal year 2016-2017 is:
  - FY 2016-2017: \$30,000
  - Total: \$30,000

Approbation/signature de la ministre demandée pour le / Minister's signature/approval requested by:

March 13, 2017

Soumis par (secteur)/Submitted by (Sector): Policy Sector

Responsable dans l'équipe du SM/Lead in the DM Team: Catherine Rudick

Revue dans l'ULM par/Edited in the MLU by: Anik Elgin

Soumis au CM/Submitted to MO: March 8, 2017

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### Grants and Contributions Approval Document / Formulaire d'approbation des subventions et des contributions

<b>Product Service Line - Ligne de service</b>		<b>Summary Commitment Line - Article d'engagement sommaire</b>	
Victims Fund/ Fonds d'aide aux victimes		Child Advocacy Centres/ Centres d'appui aux enfants	
<b>Funding Type - Mode de financement</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grant - Subvention <input type="checkbox"/> Contribution	<b>RIMS # / No SGI</b> to follow	<b>Officer /Analyst - Officier /Analyste</b> Gagné, Andrée	
<b>Applicant - Demandeur</b> SHELDON KENNEDY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRE LTD.		<b>Applicant Address - Adresse du demandeur</b> 400, 3820 - 24th Avenue NW Calgary AB T3B 2X9	
<b>Client Mandate - Mandat du client</b> The goal is to develop effective treatments and interventions to improve child health, which then become incorporated as standard practice in the health-care system. All of the activities will have one common goal: the improvement of the quality of life for children and their families.		<b>Business Number - Numéro d'entreprise</b> 826793283	

#### Project Information - Information sur le projet

Project Title - Titre du projet Forensic Interviewer	Start Date - Date de début : 2017/03/01
	End Date - Date de fin : 2017/03/31

#### Description

The project aims to increase capacity of the organization to provide a coordinated approach to addressing the needs of child and youth victims and/or witnesses in the criminal justice system, thereby minimizing system-induced trauma by providing a single, child-friendly setting for young victims or witnesses and their families seeking services.

Le projet vise à renforcer la capacité de l'organisation à offrir une approche coordonnée en vue de répondre aux besoins des enfants et des jeunes victimes et/ou témoins dans le système de justice pénale, permettant ainsi de minimiser les traumatismes causés par le système de justice en offrant un milieu convivial pour les enfants et les jeunes victimes ou témoins et leurs familles qui ont besoin de services.

Total Budget Budget total	\$30,000.00	Amount Requested Montant demandé	\$30,000.00

#### Sources of revenues - Sources de revenus

Description	Cash - Argent comptant	In-Kind - En nature	Total
Victims Fund (CACs)	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00

#### Project Assessment - Analyse du projet

The Victims Fund is designed to give victims a more effective voice in the federal justice and corrections systems. The financial assistance will support the achievement of these priorities and objectives and will benefit Canadians.

A review committee has received and assessed the merits of this project. The Review Committee supports this project as it supports the objectives of the Victims Fund and the Federal Victims Strategy. Based on the Project Risk Assessment Tool, the overall level of risk is considered to be low. The project is not considered to be complex in nature and the recipient is experienced. The project budget has been reviewed by program and financial officers to ensure that it reflects only the costs necessary to successfully deliver the project.

#### Recommendation Justification - Justification de la recommandation

The assessment has revealed that the project will further the Victims Fund's results. The project activities are deemed to be realistic given the scope of the event/activities and the fact that the applicant has demonstrated the capacity to complete the activities.



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### Grants and Contributions Approval Document / Formulaire d'approbation des subventions et des contributions

This is page 2 of the Grants & Contributions Approval Document for the commitment of funds pursuant to section 32 of the Financial Administration Act for the project entitled "Forensic Interviewer", file number to follow.

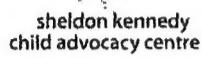
Ceci est la page 2 du formulaire d'approbation des subventions et contributions pour l'engagement des fonds en vertu de l'article 32 de la loi sur la gestion des finances publiques pour le projet intitulé "Forensic Interviewer", numéro de dossier to follow.

Recommended by - Recommandé par				
Name - Nom	Title - Titre	Tel # - # de Tél	Signature	Date
Alison Ackroyd	Program Analyst Analyste de programmes			2017/03/02
Marc Rozon	Director, IAI Directeur, IAI	(613) 954-2884		
Elizabeth Hendy	DG, Programs Branch DG, Direction générale des programmes	(613) 957-4344		
Donald K. Piragoff	Senior ADM, Policy Sector SMA principal, Secteur des politiques	(613) 957-4730		
William F. Pentney	DM, Justice Canada SM, Justice Canada	(613) 957-4998		
Name - Nom	Title - Titre	Tel # - # de Tél	Signature	Date
Name - Nom	Title - Titre	Tel # - # de Tél	Signature	Date
Name - Nom	Title - Titre	Tel # - # de Tél	Signature	Date
Name - Nom	Title - Titre	Tel # - # de Tél	Signature	Date
Approved by - Approuvé par : (As per Section 32 of the Financial Administration Act - Au sens de la section 32 de la loi sur la gestion des finances publiques)				
The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould	Minister, Justice Canada Ministre, Justice Canada	(613) 992-4621		
Name - Nom	Title - Titre	Tel # - # de Tél	Signature	Date

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RIMS # / No SGI : to follow

Page 2 of - de 2



Box 5, Child Development Centre, 3820 24 Avenue NW, Calgary AB T3B 2X9  
T 403 428 5400 F 403 428 5409 www.sheldonkennedycac.ca Charitable Registration # B2679 3283 RR001

March 1, 2017

Andrée Gagné  
Program Analyst | Analyste de programmes  
Programs Branch | Direction générale des programmes  
Department of Justice | Ministère de la Justice  
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H8  
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

**RE: Funding request to support Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre**

Dear Andrée Gagné,

Thank you very much for the recent invitation to request funding to support the ongoing development and continued work of Child Advocacy Centres. This proposal outlines two priority areas:

1. Advance the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre's child-focused setting
2. Establish the role of Child Advocacy Centres within the Alberta Child Intervention Delivery System.

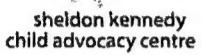
**1. Advance the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre's child-focused setting**

The SKCAC is committed to ongoing improvement in providing the highest quality service provision to decrease system induced trauma among children and families impacted by child abuse. In alignment with this objective, and with the National Children's Alliance (NCA) Standards for Accreditation as well as the work at the National level re: Canadian standards, the SKCAC is advancing its child-focused setting by:

- a) Redesigning forensic interview suites
- b) Providing the comfort of a Facility dog during child abuse medical examinations, forensic interviews and court.

**a) Redesigning forensic interview suites**

The 2017 edition of the National Children's Alliance Standards for Accredited Members states that a CAC require a 'separate, child-focus setting designated to provide a safe, comfortable and neutral place' where forensic interviews and other CAC services can be appropriately provided for children and families. This standard is also reflected in the Canadian standards for Child Advocacy Centres. The SKCAC completed a review of the literature and other similar programs, in partnership with the University of the Fraser Valley to investigate the best practices for the physical set-up of a forensic interview room. Recommendations include the incorporation of soothing paint colours and materials, soft lighting, inviting décor, and ensuring ease of transition between spaces. Through re-designing the space, it is anticipated system induced trauma and



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anxiety related to the investigation process will be reduced for children impacted by child abuse. Over the next year, the SKCAC will conduct an evaluation of the impact of physical environment on forensic interviews, and to clarify the definitions of 'child-focused' and 'neutral' as they apply to space.

*b) Providing the comfort of a Facility dog during child abuse medical examinations, forensic interviews and court*

The SKCAC has partnered with Dogs with Wings to recruit, train and integrate the use of a trained Facility dog to support children and youth at the SKCAC. Dogs with Wings is a valued member of the international community of assistance dog schools, and is an accredited member of Assistance Dogs International, the International Guide Dog Federation and the Canadian Association of Guide and Assistance Dog Schools. Facility dogs that work in the legal and medical systems can provide a sense of calm, security and non-judgmental support during investigative and legal proceedings when the professionals have to respond to children in an impartial and reserved manner.

The facility dog will be teaming up with the SKCAC Child Life Specialist, to assist in creating a comforting and supportive environment for children and youth at the Centre. This will involve a trip to Edmonton from March 5th-10th to partake in 'team training' together prior to Webster's first day of work on March 13th. Webster will be supporting the work of the Centre and the Child Life Program to offer comfort and support to children and youth throughout the Child Space, and provide a non-threatening and calming presence during forensic interviews and medical examinations.

The proposed budget is as follows:

- \$6,000 – furniture for interview suites
- \$2,000 – painting interview suites
- \$2,000 – interview suite décor such plants, lamps, wall decals, area rugs
- \$3,000 – décor to assist transition from Child Space to interview suites
- \$2,000 – start-up costs for facility dog
- \$1,300 – Travel, accommodations and per diem for primary handler to attend training in Edmonton, Alberta

Total: \$16,300

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T: 403 428 5400 F: 403 428 5409 [www.sheldongeneralcac.ca](http://www.sheldongeneralcac.ca) Charitable Registration # 82679 328 J RR001

**2. Establish the role of Child Advocacy Centres within the Alberta Child Intervention Delivery System.**

Child Advocacy Centres (CACs) have emerged as a best practice model for the investigation and treatment of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse and neglect.

There has been significant dialogue at the provincial and national levels concerning the vision, role, responsibilities and functions of Child Advocacy Centres. The Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre has commissioned a discussion paper to provide background information and context around some of the key factors influencing the development of CACs in Alberta, and promote further discussion about the future direction of CACs. The important role and functions of the not for profit designated legal entity that is at the core of Child Advocacy Centre operations will be explored, with a focus on the SKCAC. The emergence of a provincial integrated practice model recognizing CACs as an essential component of the Alberta child intervention service delivery continuum and the need for long term predictable funding for CACs is work that can be shared at the National levels.

The proposed budget is as follows:

- \$13,700 – Contractor fees

**Total: \$13,700**

**Total Requested Budget:**

\$16,300 - Advance the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre's child-focused setting  
\$13,700 – Discussion Paper establishing Child Advocacy Centres as an integral component of the Child Intervention System

**Total: \$30,000**

We are very appreciative of the ongoing support from the Department of Justice Canada, and the opportunity to request dollars for continuous improvement in providing exceptional services to children and youth impacted by trauma. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre



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FOR APPROVAL  
NUMERO DE DOSSIER / FILE #: 2017-002996  
COTE DE SÉCURITÉ / SECURITY CLASSIFICATION: Protected B

TITRE/TITLE: Increase Funding to Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre

SOMMAIRE EXÉCUTIF / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Your approval is sought to increase funding to Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre for "Forensic Interviewer," a discretionary project that meets the criteria under the Victims Fund.
- An increase in funding in the amount of \$90,000 is being recommended for this project. Should you approve, your signature is required on the Grants and Contributions Approval Document-Amendment (Annex 1) to commit the funds in accordance with section 32 of the *Financial Administration Act*, and the letter to the recipient (Annex 2).

Approbation/signature de la ministre demandée pour le / Minister's signature/approval requested by:

March 17, 2017

Soumis par (secteur) / Submitted by (Sector): Policy Sector

Responsable dans l'équipe du SM / Lead in the DM Team: Catherine Rudick

Revue dans l'ULM par / Edited in the MLU by: Sarah McCulloch

Soumis au CM/Submitted to MO: March 6, 2017



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FOR APPROVAL

2017-002996

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE MINISTER

### Increase Funding to Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre

#### ISSUE

Your approval is sought to increase funding to Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre for "Forensic Interviewer," a discretionary project that meets the criteria under the Victims Fund.

#### BACKGROUND

The Victims Fund is designed to advance Departmental priorities in the area of victims of crime, identify emerging areas of concern and practice, and advance shared objectives with respect to victim issues with other levels of government and stakeholders, all with a view to giving victims a more effective voice in the criminal justice and federal corrections systems.

Interested organizations and provincial and territorial governments submit their funding proposals to the Department's Programs Branch for review and consideration. Departmental officials undertake a detailed review to ensure that the proposals meet program objectives and are linked to the mandate and the work of the Department.

#### CONSIDERATIONS

With the proposed increase in funding, Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre will continue to support the implementation of the Forensic Assessment Model and build relations with First Nations communities within the Treaty 7 jurisdiction to integrate methods to deliver culturally responsive services for Indigenous children, youth and their families.

The anticipated increased budget is \$90,000 in 2017-2018. The costs specified in the proposal reflect the minimum amount of funding required to deliver the project as proposed. Any reductions would change the nature of the project and would impact both delivery and results.

#### RECOMMENDATION

An increase in funding in the amount of \$90,000 is being recommended for this project.

Should you approve, your signature is required on the Grants and Contributions Approval Document-Amendment (Annex 1) to commit the funds in accordance with section 32 of the *Financial Administration Act*, and on the letter to the recipient (Annex 2). A copy of their funding application is attached as Annex 3.

**ANNEXES**

- Annex 1:** Grants and Contributions Approval Document
- Annex 2:** Letter to the funding recipient
- Annex 3:** Funding application from the organization

**PREPARED BY**  
**Marc Rozon**  
**Director**  
**Innovations, Analysis and Integration Directorate**  
**613-954-2884**

# ANNEX 1



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**Grants and Contributions Approval Document - Amendment /**  
**Formulaire d'approbation des subventions et des contributions - modification**

Product Service Line - Ligne de service Victims Fund/ Fonds d'aide aux victimes		Summary Commitment Line - Article d'engagement sommaire Child Advocacy Centres/ Centres d'appui aux enfants	
Funding Type - Mode de financement <input type="checkbox"/> Grant - Subvention <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contribution	RIMS # / No SGI 7689540	Officer /Analyst - Officier /Analyste Gagné, Andrée	
Applicant - Demandeur SHELDON KENNEDY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTRE LTD.		Applicant Address - Adresse du demandeur 400, 3820 - 24th Avenue NW Calgary AB T3B 2X9	

**Client Mandate - Mandat du client**

The goal is to develop effective treatments and interventions to improve child health, which then become incorporated as standard practice in the health-care system. All of the activities will have one common goal: the improvement of the quality of life for children and their families.

Project Information - Information sur le projet			
Project Title - Titre du projet Forensic Interviewer	Start Date - Date de début : 2015/04/01	End Date - Date de fin : 2017/03/31	New End Date - Nouvelle date de fin : 2018/03/31

**Description**

The organization will continue to support the implementation of the Forensic Assessment Model and build relations with First Nations communities within the Treaty 7 jurisdiction to integrate methods to deliver culturally responsive services for Indigenous children, youth and their families.

L'organisation continuera de soutenir la mise en œuvre du modèle d'évaluation médico-légale et de nouer des relations avec les collectivités des Premières Nations relevant de la compétence du traité no 7 afin d'intégrer des méthodes pour fournir des services culturellement adaptés pour les enfants autochtones, les jeunes et leurs familles.

Current Budget Budget en cours	\$160,000.00	Additional Amount Recommended Montant additionnel recommandé	\$90,000.00	Total Budget Budget total	\$250,000.00
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Sources of revenues / Sources de revenus			
Description	Cash - Argent comptant	In-Kind - En nature	Total
Fed - Justice Canada 2015-2016	\$80,000.00	\$0.00	\$80,000.00
Fed - Justice Canada 2016-2017	\$80,000.00	\$0.00	\$80,000.00
Fed - Justice Canada 2017-2018	\$90,000.00	\$0.00	\$90,000.00
Total Revenue Amount - Montant du revenu total			\$250,000.00

Project Assessment / Analyse du projet			
The Victims Fund is designed to give victims a more effective voice in the federal justice and corrections systems. The financial assistance will support the achievement of these priorities and objectives and will benefit Canadians.			

A review committee has received and assessed the merits of this project. The Review Committee supports this project as it increases knowledge and awareness of the impact of victimization, the needs of victims of crime, available services, assistance and programs, and relevant legislation.

Based on the Project Risk Assessment Tool, the overall level of risk is considered to be low. The project is not considered to be complex in nature and the recipient is experienced.

The project budget has been reviewed by program and financial officers to ensure that it reflects only the costs necessary to successfully deliver the project.

Amendment Recommendation / Justification - Justification de la recommandation / de la modification			
This amendment was required to extend the end date of the project from March 31, 2017 to March 31, 2018 and to increase Justice Canada's contribution by \$90,000 in fiscal year 2017-2018, bringing the contribution to a maximum of \$250,000 over three fiscal years (\$80,000 in fiscal year 2015-2016, \$80,000 in fiscal year 2016-2017 and \$90,000 in fiscal year 2017-2018).			

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RIMS # / No SGI : 7689540

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**Grants and Contributions Approval Document - Amendment /**  
**Formulaire d'approbation des subventions et des contributions - modification**

This is page 2 of the Grants & Contributions Approval Document for the commitment of funds pursuant to section 32 of the Financial Administration Act for the project entitled "Forensic Interviewer", file number 7689540.

Ceci est la page 2 du formulaire d'approbation des subventions et contributions pour l'engagement des fonds en vertu de l'article 32 de la loi sur la gestion des finances publiques pour le projet intitulé "Forensic Interviewer", numéro de dossier 7689540.

**Recommended by - Recommandé par :**

Andrée Gagné	Program Analyst Analyste de programmes			
Name - Nom	Title - Titre	Tel # - # de Tél	Signature	Date
Marc Rozon	Director, IAI Directeur, IAI	(613) 954-2884		
Name - Nom	Title - Titre	Tel # - # de Tél	Signature	Date
Elizabeth Hendy	Director, IAI Directeur, IAI	(613) 957-4344		
Name - Nom	Title - Titre	Tel # - # de Tél	Signature	Date
Donald K. Piragoff	Senior ADM, Policy Sector SMA principal, Secteur des politiques	(613) 657-4730		
Name - Nom	Title - Titre	Tel # - # de Tél	Signature	Date
William F. Pentney	Deputy Minister Sous-ministre	(613) 957-4998		
Name - Nom	Title - Titre	Tel # - # de Tél	Signature	Date
Name - Nom	Title - Titre	Tel # - # de Tél	Signature	Date
Name - Nom	Title - Titre	Tel # - # de Tél	Signature	Date

**Approved by - Approuvé par : (As per Section 32 of the Financial Administration Act - Au sens de la section 32 de la loi sur la gestion des finances publiques)**

The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould	Minister, Justice Canada Ministre, Justice Canada	(613) 922-4621	
Name - Nom	Title - Titre	Tel # - # de Tél	Signature

Canada

RIMS# / No SGI : 7689540

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# ANNEX 2

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Minister of Justice  
and Attorney General of Canada



Ministre de la Justice  
et procureur général du Canada

The Honourable / L'honorable Jody Wilson-Raybould, P.C., Q.C., M.P. / c.p., c.r., députée  
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H8

MAR 17 2017

Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre  
400, 3820 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW  
Calgary AB T3B 2X9

Dear [REDACTED]

I am pleased to formally advise you that the Department of Justice Canada will provide an increased contribution to Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre from the Victims Fund for the project entitled "Forensic Interviewer." An increased contribution in the maximum amount of \$90,000 will be provided for fiscal year 2017-2018. The total maximum contribution over three fiscal years is now established at \$250,000.

This project will allow Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre to continue to support the implementation of the Forensic Assessment Model and build relations with First Nations communities within the Treaty 7 jurisdiction to integrate methods to deliver culturally responsive services for Indigenous children, youth and their families.

Officials from the Department's Programs Branch will send to your attention a formal letter of offer related to this contribution.

Please do not make any public announcement of this funding prior to the final execution of the Agreement and consultation with Justice Canada.

I wish you every success with this project and look forward to learning the results of your work.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]  
The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould

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# ANNEX 3

sheldon kennedy  
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Box 5, Child Development Centre, 3826 - 24 Avenue NW, Calgary, AB, T3B 2X9  
1-403-428-5400 F-403-428-5409 www.sheldongunnedcac.ca Charitable Registration # 826793289 RR001

February 9, 2017

Andrée Gagné  
Program Analyst | Analyste de programmes  
Programs Branch | Direction générale des programmes  
Department of Justice | Ministère de la Justice  
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H8  
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

**RE: Funding extension request and funding request for Indigenous services**

Dear Andrée Gagné,

Thank you very much for the recent invitation to request a funding extension to support the implementation of the Forensic Assessment Model, through the Forensic Interviewer position. We are also very grateful for the opportunity to request funding to enhance and integrate methods to deliver culturally responsive services for Indigenous children, youth and their families.

**Funding Extension Request**

Please consider this letter to be the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre's (SKCAC) formal request to extend the current funding agreement to the 2017/18 fiscal year (April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018), for an additional \$60,000 during this period.

This extension would support the continuing work of the Forensic Interviewer position, which was filled in January, 2017. The proposed budget is as follows:

- \$57,000 – Salary, benefits and office space
- \$3,000 - Review engagement fees (as required by the Federal Government)

The Forensic Interviewer position is an integral component of the Forensic Assessment Model at the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre. This position works in partnership with two Forensic Interviewers (part-time) designated by Child & Family Services Calgary Region. This team builds forensic interviewing capacity among partners at the SKCAC and throughout Southern Alberta, provides mentorship and training based on leading practices and conducts interviews upon request.

The SKCAC, working with the partner organizations has identified six goals that the Forensic Interviewers will move forward with over the next few years. They include the following:

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- Work with the RCMP in the areas of forensic interview training, support and capacity building;
- Provide consultation and support to members of the Calgary Police Service, the RCMP, Child and Family Services and Alberta Health Services for child abuse cases;
- Conduct forensic child abuse interviews for complex and severe cases at the SKCAC upon request;
- Provide outreach and support in rural and Aboriginal communities upon request;
- Deliver in-house training programs for SKCAC staff, decreasing the need to bring in external training professionals; and
- Implement a peer review process for CPS and RCMP members to enhance forensic interviewing skills and abilities.

The Forensic Interviewer is a core member of the Centre, who will be integral in implementing the Forensic Assessment Model at the SKCAC. Services provided by the Forensic Interviewers include:

- Conduct forensic interviews,
- Translate the latest research in forensic interviewing to CPS and RCMP members,
- Deliver specialized training in advanced forensic interview practices for CPS and RCMP members,
- Deliver follow up feedback, peer review, and supervision of forensic interviews,
- Consult, when needed, on files for CPS and RCMP members, and
- Develop outcome measurement and research in forensic interviewing.

Outcomes expected to be achieved through these innovative positions include:

- Improved skills and abilities in forensic interviewing practices;
- Improved reliability in victim accounts leading to a more likely successful prosecution of offenders;
- Implementation of innovative, scientific, evidence-based forensic interview practices; and
- Increased skill level confidence for Forensic Interviewers, RCMP and Police conducting interviews.

We are very appreciative of the opportunity to request an extension of the existing funding for the Forensic Interviewer position, and the ongoing support from the Department of Justice. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

**Funding Request for Indigenous Services**

The Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre is committed to ensuring that every child who resides in the surrounding communities extending into Southern Alberta, receive specialized and collaborative services in dealing with complex, severe cases of child abuse. There continues to

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child advocacy centre

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be an over-representation of Aboriginal and First Nations children in the child protection system. The 2003 Canadian Incidence Study of Reported Child Abuse and Neglect reported that Aboriginal children were 2.5 times as likely to have a 'substantiated' report of maltreatment. Research also indicates that 25% to 50% of Aboriginal adults were sexually assaulted before the age of eighteen (Collin-Vezina, 2009). Treaty 7 is comprised of the bands of the Blackfoot, Tsuu T'ina, Piikani, Siksika, Blood and Stoney nations. Based on the development of trusting relationships, the SKCAC has the opportunity to support rural and Aboriginal communities in building capacity to provide specialized and multi-sector approaches to child abuse, ensuring that children across Southern Alberta have access equitable services.

Over the last year:

- The Centre and the TsuuT'ina Nation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formally begin the process of developing an operational partnership. This will ensure that children impacted by child abuse on TsuuT'ina have equitable access to streamlined, integrated and specialized services;
- The SKCAC is currently partnering with Child & Family Services to develop working agreements with the 4 other First Nations' Bands that will outline the partnership between the SKCAC and each Band in supporting complex cases, providing training and receiving cultural training from the First Nations' communities to ensure understanding and the building of a strong working relationship with each First Nations' community;
- Elders and band representatives from all five Bands have toured the Centre and participated in conversations and building trusting relationships; and
- The Centre and the Bands are currently working together to develop operational agreements that will support Aboriginal children and families in the Treaty 7 region.

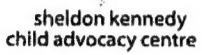
The SKCAC is continuing to focus on strong practice and will also partner with First Nations, the RCMP and rural communities to develop and support capacity in responding to child abuse cases. There is a strong commitment from the SKCAC, Calgary Region Child and Family Services, Southern Alberta Region Child and Family Services, and the RCMP to partner with Treaty 7 in developing a supportive and integrated approach to child abuse services.

We are requesting funding from the Department of Justice Canada to contract an Aboriginal Liaison to continue to build relations with the First Nations communities within the Treaty 7 jurisdiction. This liaison will continue to build relationships with the First Nations Bands in Treaty 7 and together, will develop a Strategic Plan which includes continued completion of partnership agreements with the four other First Nations, providing training to build capacity in dealing with complex child abuse cases and learning from the First Nations in how best to provide culturally sensitive services for Indigenous Children.

The proposed budget is as follows:

- \$30,000 – Contractor fees (includes expenses related to travel, engagement, gifts as per Indigenous protocols)

s.19(1)



**sheldon kennedy  
child advocacy centre**

Box 5, Child Development Centre, 3820 - 24 Avenue NW, Calgary, AB, T3B 2X9  
T: 403 426 5100 F: 403 428 5409 [www.sheldongennedycac.ca](http://www.sheldongennedycac.ca) Charitable Registration #: 82679 3283 RR001

We appreciate the opportunity to continue our work with the Department of Justice Canada.  
Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]  
**Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre**